

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the first paragraph on page 1 with the following amended paragraph:

This application is a continuation of United States patent application serial No. 09/734,336 filed November 30, 2000, entitled SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR IMPLEMENTING A GLOBAL MASTER PATIENT INDEX, which is hereby incorporated herein by reference in its entirety for each of its teachings and embodiments[[]], and which ~~This application~~ claims the benefit of priority ~~of~~ U.S. provisional application Serial No. 60/167,532, filed December 1, 1999, entitled "System and Method Enabling a Distributed Object-to-Relational Application Framework", ~~filed December 1, 1999, whose inventors were Robert Yeager, Kurt Schurenberg, and Robin Johnson.~~